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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: TSPA, ETRD, EIND, BEXP, JA
SUBJ: CONGRESSMAN WIRTH'S NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW ON
- TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY

1. THE JANUARY 14 EDITION OF NIHON KEIZAI SHINBUN
CARRIED AN ARTICLE BASED ON AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY
CONGRESSMAN TIMOTHY WIRTH DURING HIS VISIT TO TOKYO
AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE JAPAN/US PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE
PROGRAM.

2. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, CONGRESSMAN WIRTH MADE
THREE MAIN POINTS:

-- VAN. THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE GAP BETWEEN THE GOJ
AND THE USG VIEWS ON VAN RESTRICTIONS. RESTRICTIONS ON
FOREIGN EQUITY IN VAN'S IS TANTAMOUNT TO A DOMESTIC
LOCAL-CONTENT BILL.

-- TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES. THE US NEEDS HIGH
QUALITY GOODS. THUS THE US MARKET IS OPEN FOR VTR'S,
SEMI-CONDUCTORS, ETC. IN JAPAN, SATELLITES SHOULD FIT
IN THE SAME CATEGORY; IT WILL BE YEARS BEFORE JAPAN
CAN PRODUCE THE ADVANCED SATELLITES NOW BEING
MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES. IF JAPAN CLOSES
ITS MARKET, THEN THE US WILL PROBABLY COME TO TAKE
SIMILAR MEASURES.

-- NTT REORGANIZATION. THE PURPOSE OF REORGANIZATION
SHOULD BE TO MAXIMIZE COMPETITION AND TO USE ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

3. COMMENT. THESE ARE THE SAME POINTS WE HAVE BEEN
MAKING RECENTLY WITH THE JAPANESE. THE SUPPORTING
STATEMENTS MADE BY CONGRESSMAN WIRTH, WHO IS VIEWED BY
THE JAPANESE AS ONE OF OUR PRINCIPLE EXPERTS IN THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIELD, ARE USEFUL IN OUR EFFORTS TO
INFLUENCE THE DIRECTION THE GOJ WILL TAKE. END COMMENT.
MANSFIELD
END OF MESSAGE

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